

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 ARAE-00 /018 W
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O R 101648Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1305
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8855

FOR AMBASSADOR STEDMAN FROM POPPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR CI
SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT'S REQUEST

REF: LA PAZ 7151

1. CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED TRIP TO SANTIAGO
BY GUILLERMO BANNER-OJOPI AND HIS ESCORT PUZZLE ME,
AND I WOULD APPRECIATE A WORD OF CLARIFICATION FROM YOU.
2. IT SEEMS TO ME STRANGE THAT BANNER-OJOPI, IF INNOCENT,
NEEDS TO COME TO SANTIAGO TO ESTABLISH HIS INNOCENCE.
I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN DONE
THROUGH AN AFFIDAVIT LETTERS REGATORY, OR THROUGH SOME OTHER
MEANS OF MAKING HIS POSITION CLEAR.
3. IF, HOWEVER, HE MUST COME IN PERSON, I MUST CONFESS
TO SOME UNEASINESS ABOUT HIM -- AN INNOCENT MAN -- BEING ESCORTED
BY BOTH BOLIVIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES AND DEA. WHY IS HE IN JEOPARDY,
AND WHY DOES HE NEED THIS ESCORT? FROM LA PAZ 7151 I GET THE IMPRES-
SION THAT THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT FEELS THE TRIP AS LAID ON
WOULD SOMEHOW CLEAR THE NAME OF THE GOB AND PRESIDENT
BANZER, BUT I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND QUITE WHY THIS SHOULD BE SO.
4. IF ALL CONCERNED ARE QUITE CONVINCED THAT THE SUGGESTED
PROCEDURE IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST, I WOULD NOT OF COURSE
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HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE TRIP. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO BE

CERTAIN THAT THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE BEFORE THE TRIP
IS FIRMED UP.

5. WARM REGARDS.
POPPER

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NNN

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